

Alexander Randall Double House
88-90 State Circle
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-272

HABS
MD,
2-ANNA,
60-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
MD.
2-ANNA,
160-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MARYLAND	COUNTY ANNE ARUNDEL	TOWN OR VICINITY ANNAPOLIS
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Alexander Randall Double House		HABS NO. MD-272
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 88-90 State Circle		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Before 1880	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) An unusually well constructed late nineteenth century building whose builders paid a great deal of attention to expensive detail work even though the city was going through a period of economic depression.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) First: Brick laid in American Bond; Second and third stories: Frame, faced with imbricated light red-orange tiles on the front portion; stucco and pseudo half-timber on the sides and wooden shingles on the rear.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 3 stories with a three story wing over a high basement. Overall dimensions are approximately 35' x 55'. Asymmetrical in plan.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE There is a porch at each front corner which is reached by nine wide stone steps with simple iron railing. The porches are one bay deep and two bays wide. Over the outer bay the porches are gabled and supported on two square paneled columns of modified Tuscan detail. The porches have a small interior wooden cornice (see attached page 2).		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) First floor: There is an entrance and stair hall at the front corner which lead to two rooms at the inner side, and eventually to two successive rooms at the rear. Second floor: The layout here is essentially the same as that of the first floor. Stairways: The stairs are open-well (see attached page 3).		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES A report by Florence Dunbar (Jan. 1965) for HABS indicates that additions of service wing and apartment and offices were added to the main house but no dates of construction have been suggested.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE As of 1965 the house was used as a private residence.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The house is located at the northeast corner of State Circle and North Street. For information concerning chain of title see data pages 3-5.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Army-Navy Journal, July 12, 1913, collection of U.S. Naval Academy Library (see attached page 3)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, HABS, Historian from reports by Florence Dunbar (1/1/65) and Harley J. McKee (8/12/64).		DATE 3/1/84

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (CONT'D): and floors of ceramic tile. Two large brick chimneys are located on the central dividing partition. Those portions above the roof are ornamented with corner pilasters and panels, executed in brick, and are covered with a slab whose flues open to the sides. The entrance doors are rectangular with flat arch, and are fitted with double doors and a transom. The transoms are glazed with a semi-elliptical fanlight with leaded glass arranged in a geometrical pattern. The upper half of each door is glazed with leaded glass; below each glazed panel is a projecting sill with dentil course.

The main body of the roof is hipped, but several gables project along the lower section. The tops of these gables are decorated with red tile cresting terminating in a wave-like finial. The roof is covered with dark grey slate. The main cornice is of wood with a wide cove. The gables carry wide paneled barge boards, and eaves with ornamental rafter ends.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (CONT'D): with a closed string. The posts are large, square with chamfered corners, and incised design at the top, and heavy, turned finials. The handrails are large, rounded on the top and reeded on the sides. There are heavy turned balusters whose tops and bases are square. The treads are of pine and the soffits of matched and beaded boards. The walls and ceilings of the house are of plain plaster. The entrance hall is ceiled with exposed joists which are chamfered on the corners, and matched and beaded boards are laid perpendicular to the joists. The first story rooms are wainscoted. The walls in the first story front central room have tall panels above the wainscoting and moldings which project from the face of the wall. There are two fireplaces in the central first story rooms. That in the front room has a rectangular opening; The mantel is composed of a wooden frieze three panels, a pair of heavy brackets supporting a thick mantel shelf and vertical panels between these brackets. The brackets terminate in a wide reeded base. The fireplace in the rear room has a semi-circular arched opening of brick. The mantel is composed of side pilasters supporting brackets which support a thick mantel shelf. The area below the shelf is coved and ornamented with a simple incised palmette band. Each spandrel bears a dark, square ceramic tile with a naturalistic scene in low relief and two small triangular panels.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS: The grounds of the house on the State Circle side have an iron fence which appears to be original. This fencing has a decorative motif typified by panels composed of $\frac{1}{4}$ " round rods in an interwoven pattern, lozenges in the central zone and arches above and below. Each post is a square bar topped by a cast iron foliated finial. The top rail is made of flat strips to which are attached cast iron ornaments of symmetrical scrolls bearing spear points. A simpler iron fence continues along the North Street frontage.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (CONT'D):

Historic Annapolis Index File, Hall of Records
Land Records & Wills, County Court House
Wills, Hall of Records

CHAIN OF TITLE: The following information represents an incomplete chain of title:

As these common wall houses have a different history of ownership they are listed separately to avoid confusion.

I. 780 State Circle

1847 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber JIM 2, Folio 440, Hall of Records:
James Boyle, trustee, to Alexander Randall
Lots 75, 77, 78, 79 and 80

1881 A.A. Co. Wills, Liber RID 1, Folio 452, County Court House:
Will of Alexander Randall
To his wife, Elizabeth, during her life, and then in shares of equal value to his children. "... Also my dwelling house and all my right, title, and interest in the other houses and in all the lots of ground in the square comprehended by parts of the State House Circle, North, Tabernacle, and Prince George Streets and Maryland Avenue, together with all rents and profits thereof."

1897 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber SW 0, Folio 457, County Court House:
J. Wirt Randall, Blanchard Randall, S. Alexander Randall, trustees of the Estate of Alexander Randall, deceased, to Elizabeth S. Randall and Adeline S. Randall, sisters, as tenants in common.
"Together with the two-story-and-attic brick and frame dwelling erected thereon. . ."
This deed records the official partition and division of the estate of Alexander Randall, deceased, after the death of his wife, Elizabeth; as per instruction in his will. Circuit Court Equity Case #1937 gives full details of the division of property. "... being a part of lot and dwellings designated as #3 & #4 on plat of subdivision of homestead property of Alexander Randall, "exhibit #11, attached to exhibit #23.

#86 State Circle Chain of Title Cont'd:

- 1897 A.A. Co. Wills, Liber WFP 1, folio 354, County Court House:
Jessie S. R. Caswell, nee Elizabeth S. Randall, to her
husband, Thomas T. Caswell, RADM
Her undivided one-half interest in #40 State Circle.
(now #86)
- 1913 A.A. Co. Wills, Liber OSD 47, folio 55, County Court House:
Thomas T. Caswell, deceased, leaves to Adeline S. Randall
his undivided one-half interest in #40 State Circle which
he inherited from his wife, Jessie S. R. Caswell.
- 1913 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber B. 102, folio 99, County Court House:
Adeline S. Randall, unmarried, to Rosalie Caswell Hood
dwelling known as #40 State Circle and lot on which it stands
- 1920 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber WNT 17, folio 407, County Court House:
Rosalie Caswell Hood to Lizzie W. Graham, wife of Samuel
L. Graham
For \$12,000. "... being improved by a two-story brick
dwelling now designated as Street Number 40, State Circle. . ."
- 1929 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber FSR 55, folio 409, County Court House:
Elizabeth J. Graham, widow, to Robert S. G. Welch and
Sally Bond, his wife
- II. #88 State Circle
- 1847 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber JHE 2, folio 440, Hall of Records:
James Boyle, trustee, to Alexander Randall
Lots 76, 77, 78, 79, and 80
- 1860 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber SH 10, folio 21, County Court House:
Alexander Randall and wife to J. Wirt Randall
"... running thence with this small iron fence to the
center of a new block of two brick buildings owned by
the said Alexander. . . to have and to hold the said lot
or parcel of ground with the two-story-and-attic brick
and frame dwelling house thereon erected being the
easternmost of the aforesaid block of two houses. . ."
for \$5,700.

#88 State Circle Chain of Title Cont'd:

- 1897 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber GW 6, folio 471, County Court House:
J. Wirt Randall and wife, Hannah, to Catherine W. Randall
and Fannie R. McIlvaine
In the redivision of the property of the estate of Alexander Randall after the death of his widow in 1895, it was
agreed the main dwelling house should go to J. Wirt
Randall, and he must, therefore, turn over his present home
to two other beneficiaries.
- 1916 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber GW 123, folio 404, County Court House:
Catherine W. Randall, unmarried, and Fannie R. McIlvaine,
widow, to Arthur M. Brown and wife, Annie D.
- 1927 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber FSK 14, folio 218, County Court House:
Arthur M. Brown and wife Annie D. To Philip Miller and wife,
Selma V.
- 1946 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber JHH 390, folio 381, County Court House:
Philip Miller and wife, Selma V. to James F. Connor and wife,
Marjorie Page
- 1947 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber JHH 399, folio 476, County Court House:
James F. Connor and wife, Marjorie Page to James G. Wood-
ward, Trustee.
Woodward to immediately reconvey the property to M.T.W.
Dodds in trust for T.W. Dodds.
- 1947 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber JHH 399, folio 477, County Court House:
James G. Woodward, trustee, to M.T.W. Dodds, trustee
for T.W. Dodds.
- 1952 A.A. Co. Deeds, Liber JHH 693, folio 231, County Court House:
M.T.W. Dodds, trustee for T.W. Dodds, infant, to Barham R.
Gary and Elizabeth Joy, his wife.
". . . situated on the northeast side of State Circle. . .
being improved by a building known as Number 44 State
Circle . . ." (Now known as #88 State Circle.)